

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a maximum a posteriori probability decoding method for executing decoding processing by a sliding window scheme, encoded data is divided into blocks each  
5 of a prescribed length, backward probabilities are obtained in present decoding processing of respective ones of the blocks, and these backward probabilities at initial positions of other blocks are stored in a storage unit as initial values of backward  
10 probabilities of the other blocks in decoding processing to be executed next. Backward-probability calculation units start calculation of backward probability of each block using the stored initial value in decoding processing executed next.

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